



Oil Bottle (Lekythos)

Date

ca. 500-475 BCE

Primary Maker

Bowdoin Painter

Medium

pottery and paint

Description

The lekythos, a vase form associated with funerary offerings, depicts a silenus, which is a nature or woodland spirit follower of Dionysus, the god of wine. Greeks used animals as metaphors for what they saw as bestial qualities of human nature such as lack of restraint and lasciviousness. Sileni are identified by their horse's tails and sometimes have horse's ears as well. They should not be confused with a particular individual companion of Dionysus named Silenus, who was a satyr or goat-man.

Dimensions

Overall: 10 1/8 x 3 1/8 in. (25.7 x 7.9 cm)